

LOCAL FIRM SELLS RIFLES TO ALLIES

Another Negotiating for Some
Time With Germany for
Copper Sale.

ACTIVITIES ARE REVEALED IN NEUTRALITY COMMENT

Declared Inconceivable That Con-
gress Would Pass Any Measure
to Halt U. S. Commerce.

A Washington firm has sold 75,000 Mauser and Remington rifles to the allies within the past week, and another Washington firm has been in negotiation for four months with German sources to furnish copper for war material, "as opportunity offers," to Germany and Austria, according to information obtained today by a reporter for The Star. Other similar instances of sales and negotiations are cited.

Details of these activities were forthcoming today, following casual inquiries as to what is thought of measures introduced in Congress which would forbid the exportation from the United States of grain, foodstuffs, clothing, arms, ammunition and other articles that would aid the nations now at war.

Washington business and professional men who are closely in touch with New York and London, and who are in more remote touch with Berlin, called attention to the fact today that not only Washington, but the whole United States, is engaged in furnishing supplies of one kind and another to the European and other countries at war. They declared it to be inconceivable that Congress would pass any measure that would halt these commercial activities in view of the status of war taxes that have been imposed and the crippling of many American industries by the war, notably that of cotton.

Other Sales to the Allies.

In addition to the instance of rifles being sold to the allies and the negotiations that have been going on to furnish Germany with copper, through Washington, it is said today that another Washingtonian has been principally instrumental in obtaining and shipping a large number of horses to England, still another Washingtonian has been a partner in a syndicate which has furnished France with general supplies, including blankets and shoes, and that still another Washingtonian has recently been engaged in furnishing general supplies to Great Britain.

The 75,000 Mauser and Remington rifles sold to the allies, it is stated, come from two South American countries, and one other island country near the United States. They brought 25 per cent more than the normal price. They had been slightly used, and if they had been "brand-new," it is said, they would have brought a still higher price. They were seven-millimeter guns, and with them was furnished a large supply of ammunition to fit.

German Effort Open Secret.

Germany's attempts to get copper are said to be an open secret in Washington, the talk of the clubs and the financial district. It is said today, also, that she is getting the needed copper in one way and another, some of it from the United States and some from a South American country, under a spur, it is said, of being obliged to use telegraph wire and even copper utensils for the manufacture of war material, recently. In this connection, it is recalled today that formal official notice has from time to time lately been called to the possibility of smuggling copper out of the country in bales of cotton.

Cable dispatches from London today containing the views of the critics of the resolutions introduced in the Senate which would forbid the exportation from the United States of war material and other supplies aroused great interest in Washington. One lawyer having an international practice said that so far as he is informed or could learn, there has been absolutely no attempt to violate the neutrality laws. Washingtonians and others, he said, who have acted as agents or sellers have kept strictly within the law.

Naval Officers Advanced.

Capt. De Witt Coffman, who has been ordered to take command of the third division of the Atlantic fleet. Capt. Reynold T. Hall, an engineer officer and an additional number in grade, and Commander Charles T. Hughes have been advanced in grade by the retirement of Rear Admiral Nicholson.

SAYS INDIANS SUFFER FROM TOO MANY LAWS

Board of Commissioners Also Criticizes "Red Tape" of Washington Bureau.

A "multiplicity of laws and cumbersome rules and regulations in the Indian office in Washington," hamper the men in the Indian field service, declares the forty-fifth annual report of the board of Indian commissioners to the Secretary of the Interior.

"The men and women in responsible positions in the Indian service whom we have met during our investigations," says the report, "we found for the most part to be earnest, industrious and intelligent, striving to uplift the Indians under their respective jurisdictions."

Hampered by Red Tape.

"The one general criticism which we make is that the men in the Indian field service are hampered in their efforts by the delays caused by the multiplicity of laws and cumbersome rules and regulations in the Indian office in Washington."

"The complaint is also general among field men that too many circulars are received from the Washington office modifying regulations or calling for various reports or giving instructions on this, that, and the other thing. The exact number of circulars issued from the Washington office from July 1, 1912, to July 1, 1914, is 122, or a little more than one circular every third day. The field employees complain, with apparent ground, that while they are instructed from the office in Washington to spend most of their time in the field among Indians, compliance with the numerous circulars makes it impossible for them to do so."

Fault in System Cited.

Indian education is extolled by the board, which declares that, on the other hand, "it is evident that the government's policies of individualizing and handling of Indian properties have proved to be deficient."

"It is our opinion," states the report, "that the haste of Congress and of the Indian bureau to individualize the land holdings of the Indians, who have had centuries of life under the communistic system of land ownership and the methods applied in the process, are responsible for much of the fraud and graft from which Indians have suffered in a large majority of the cases where the restrictions upon alienation have been removed."

"The road out of the difficulty, we believe, is to permit every Indian to have the greatest possible freedom in handling his property, short of alienating it, the only means of preparing him ultimately to exercise full control over it."

Oscar Dorsey, a negro farmhand, was found guilty of the murder of Joseph Baker of Highland, Md., at Ellicott City.

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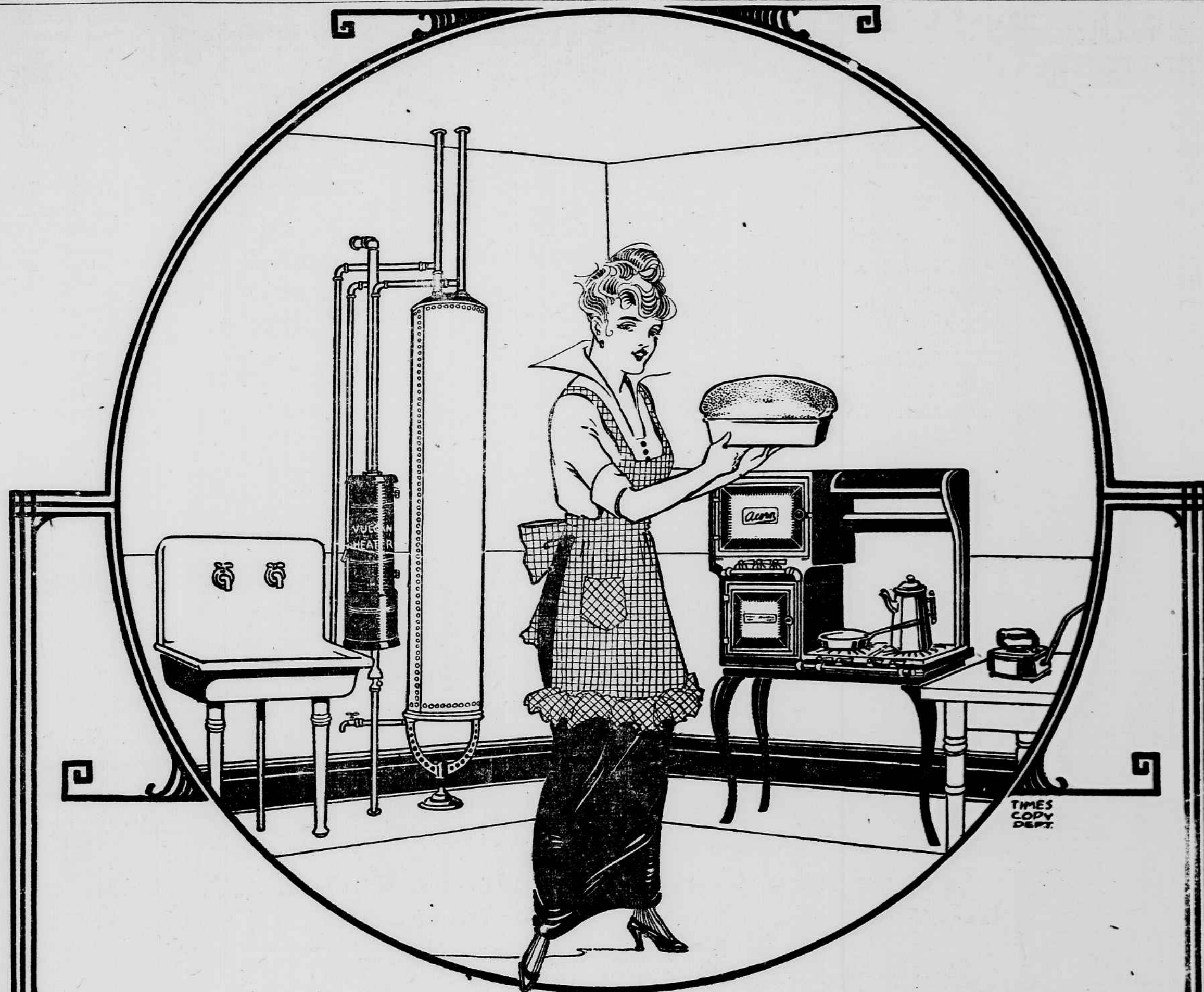
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